



STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH

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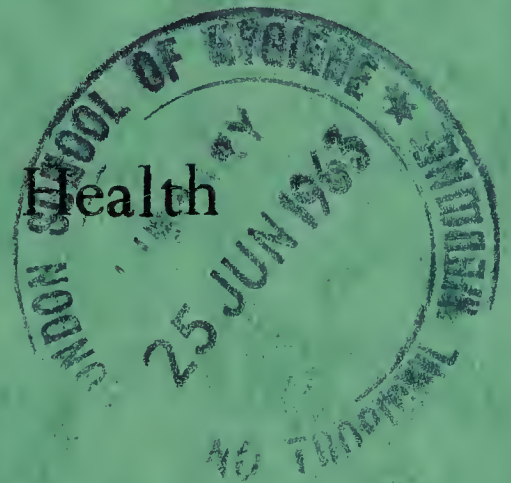
ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector



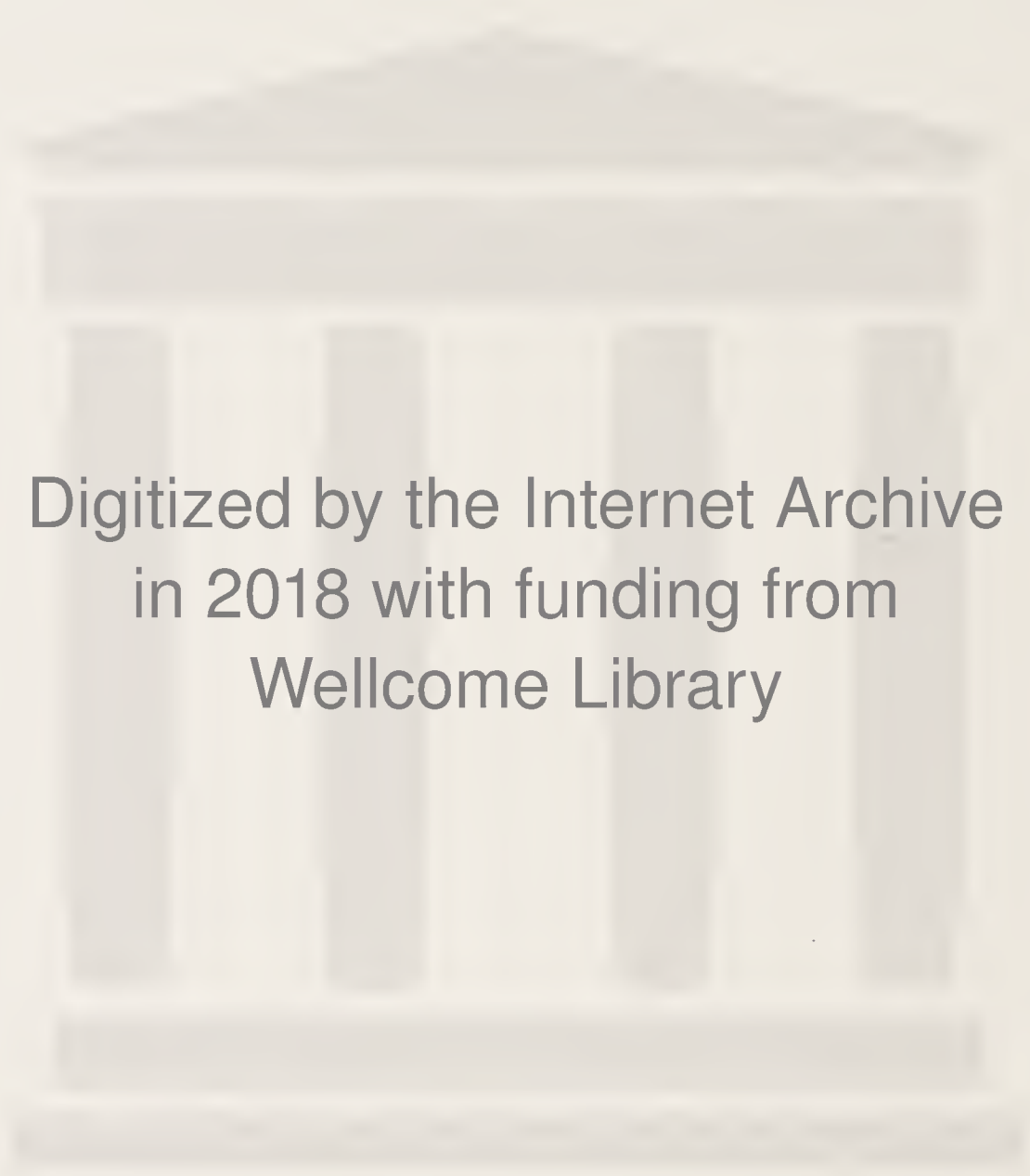
1957

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STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

Chairman : Councillor Mrs. G. E. Goodman.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor Mrs. B. E. Wallage.

Councillors :

L. M. Benen-Stock, L. L. Evans, W. T. Fisher, H. F. Gilbert,
W. T. Kay, P. King, Miss M. Nixon, Mrs. E. J. Perkins, G. Perry,
Miss A. Phipps.

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health (part-time):

L. A. MATHESON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.C.H., M.M.S.A.

Chief Public Health Inspector :

JOHN MULLIN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.I.HSG.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

P. F. PACKHAM, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Public Health Inspectors :

G. A. EVANS, M.A.P.H.I., A.I.HSG.

R. I. SHEPHERD, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Senior Clerk :

MISS L. M. PERRYMAN.

Assistant Clerk and Shorthand Typist :

MISS P. E. REEVE.

Assistant Rodent Officer :

H. A. CROUCHER.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS of the STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1957 is likely to be looked upon as a notable year of progress in the history of Staines Urban District Council when the first decisive steps were taken by the Council to undertake the care of the aged infirm people of the district. Previously, old persons' bungalows have been built in connection with each of the post-war housing estates and these continue to fulfil a very useful role. There is no doubt that old people are happier in their own homes with their own furniture and belongings, which gives them a feeling of personal independence. However, infirmity due to arthritis, chronic bronchitis, failing sight and general frailty tends to limit an old person's activities so that he or she needs a helping hand and a sympathetic person on whom to lean. This support ideally should come, and often does, from the old person's family or a friendly neighbour.

The new scheme envisaged by the Council will make provision for those cases where such arrangements are either not possible or have broken down. It is planned to build sixty separate homes for old people on a site in Woodthorpe Road, Ashford; all will be provided with central heating and constant hot water. In addition, there will be a warden living in a flat on the site who can be summoned in the case of need by a bell operated from every bedroom; the warden, too, will provide the unobtrusive yet essential support required from time to time by an old person who for most of the time is proud to remain independent.

The Council is to be congratulated on formulating such a forward looking policy and they may be proud to be in the van of such a scheme of combining a welfare aspect with housing, being worked out in the County of Middlesex. There has been a close liaison brought about between the Old People's Welfare Committee and the Staines Urban District Council, both interested in the same objective.

1958, it is hoped, will see the beginning of active building of the ambitious programme ahead. This will include eight bed-sitting rooms, twelve one-bedroom bungalows and nineteen one-bedroom flats on the ground floor, and twenty-one one-bedroom flats on the first floor. A warden's flat is included and three bedrooms which can be used either for visitors or for the temporary housing of old people in the district during the periods when their relatives who normally care for them are on holiday or are otherwise unable to care for them for a short period. There will be paved covered ways round the open space in the centre, providing access to a communal hall and kitchen adjoining. The hall is intended for use of old persons' organisations and activities throughout the district and it is anticipated that a "meals-on-wheels" service will operate from the kitchen. Other communal facilities will include an office, reading room, entrance hall and lavatories and a washing and drying room.

It will be seen from this brief preliminary outline that the needs of infirm old people should be most adequately covered. Up to now infirm old persons have frequently had to be admitted, often after a long waiting period, to accommodation provided under Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948, by the Middlesex County Council through their Welfare Officer. Excellent though these provisions are, it will be seen that the old person relinquishes his home and often thereafter lives at a considerable distance from his friends and relatives. We hope to keep the old people near us in our own district happily and comfortably housed but with no fear that they will be left without help when the need arises.

The health of the district is most satisfactory, the death rate having fallen to the quite low figure of 7.9 compared with 11.5 in England and Wales. The infant mortality rate is gratifyingly low this year, but as only twelve babies died it can hardly be classified as a rate. The birth rate remains high at 18.4, 842 babies being born this year; the birth rate of England and Wales is 15.7. No illnesses specifically connected with employment or locality are prevalent in this district.

There was a high incidence of measles in the first three-quarters of the year, 752 cases being notified for the year. All four wards were equally affected. More than half (362) developed in children between 5 and 9 years of age. However, there were very few complicated cases, and no deaths reported as due to this cause. Very little use had to be made of hospital facilities.

In common with most other areas, Staines Urban District experienced a considerable outbreak of "Asian Flu." The peak

of the epidemic occurred in October. There were few complicated cases and only four deaths reported from this cause, one with an important secondary cause in association with influenza. I should like to thank the industrial organisations who so readily co-operated in providing figures for the Ministry of Health in connection with this outbreak.

In 1952, it may be remembered, a laundry scheme was inaugurated for necessitous incontinent persons requiring a laundry service which could not be provided by the person caring for them in their own homes.

Experience in operating the scheme since that time has shown that many necessitous persons requiring this free service were unable to avail themselves of it because they could not provide sufficient sheets to allow them to be removed for a weekly collection by the laundry. The Council therefore resolved to expend £15 on forty draw sheets for loan to such people when occasion demanded. These draw sheets are in the care of the British Red Cross and application for such loan is normally made through the patient's doctor, the home nurse or the Public Health Department. Already fair use has been made of this useful amenity, and undoubtedly greater use will be made as time goes on.

The Chiropody Service continues to function most successfully in the hands of the British Red Cross and Old People's Welfare Committee. Very extensive use is now made of this service which undoubtedly enables old people to remain more mobile, and gives them greater comfort.

The care of old people at home is constantly in the minds of the Public Health Department. We are glad that the public makes such free use of any services that can be provided to help them. I am very happy to record that in the case of one old lady who was incapable of looking after the house or doing any cooking for herself, a very kind neighbour stepped into the breach and for some months helped this old lady until she was admitted to Middlesex County Council Part III accommodation. "Kind hearts are more than coronets."

I should like to thank the Women's Voluntary Service for the interest always shown in social aspects of public health work in Staines and for the many occasions on which they have so helpfully provided necessities, such as clothing, on request.

Mention must be made of the devoted care given by the home nurses in the district, particularly in the care of the nursing of the

aged. Many reading this report will no doubt have heard of the very high quality of the service rendered in this district.

I should like to express my appreciation of all the help given by the staff of Ashford Hospital with whom the closest liaison exists, also to the Welfare Officer, the Children's Department of the Middlesex County Council and the Mental Health Officers. I wish to record my appreciation of the co-operation of the General Practitioners in the district.

I am most grateful for the co-operation and assistance I always receive from the Chief Public Health Inspector and other members of the Public Health Department Staff.

L. A. MATHESON.

General Statistics

Area—8,271 acres.

Population (Estimated Mid 1957)	...	...	...	45,770
Number of Houses, Bungalows and Flats at 1.4.57	...			13,012
Rateable Value at 1.4.57	...	...	...	£776,740
Sum represented by a penny rate at 1st April, 1957	...			£3,200

Summary of Vital Statistics

Live Births

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	430	392	822
Illegitimate	...	...	12	8	20
			—	—	—
			442	400	842
			—	—	—

<i>Birth Rate</i> (per thousand population)	...	...	18.4
Comparability factor is 0.93, giving adjusted birth rate of	...	...	17.1
Birth Rate England and Wales	...	...	15.7

<i>Still Births</i>				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	10	9	19
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—

<i>Still Birth Rate</i> (per thousand population)	...	...	0.41
Still Birth Rate England and Wales	...	...	0.37

Deaths

Male	...	185
Female	...	176
		—
		361
		—

<i>Death Rate</i> (per thousand population)	7.9
Comparability factor is 1.26, giving adjusted death rate of	10.0
Death Rate England and Wales	11.5
Deaths from Maternal Causes	—
Infant Deaths under one year	12
Infant Mortality Rate (per thousand live births) ...	14.3
Infant Mortality Rate England and Wales	23.0

**Provision of Hospitals and Clinics
in the Area During 1957**

Hospitals :

- Ashford Hospital, London Road, Ashford.
- Staines Hospital, Kingston Road, Staines.

Chest Clinic :

- Chest Clinic, Ashford Hospital, London Road, Ashford.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, etc.:

These are provided by the Middlesex County Council at the following addresses :

- “ The Grange,” Gresham Road, Staines.
- The Health Centre, Stanwell Road, Ashford.
- Laleham Village Hall, Laleham.
- Stanwell Village Hall, Stanwell.

Notifiable Diseases

A chart showing the diseases notified in their age groups is appended.

Tuberculosis

Thirty-four cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified and there were four deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis. A chart showing the age and sex distribution of the notifications and deaths is appended.

Infectious Diseases Notified During 1957

	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	25 & over	Total
Scarlet										
Fever	—	—	2	1	1	10	2	—	—	16
Whooping										
Cough	5	6	5	9	4	22	2	2	—	55
Acute										
Polio- myelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Measles	23	71	80	88	99	362	18	3	3	752

		Under 5 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15-44 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65 & over	Total
Acute pneumonia	...	—	6	6	7	3	22
Dysentery	...	—	3	1	1	—	5
Erysipelas	...	—	—	2	2	—	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	—	—	1	—	—	1
Meningococcal infection		—	1	—	—	—	1
Food poisoning	...	—	—	2	—	—	2

TUBERCULOSIS

NOTIFICATIONS

DEATHS

Age Periods	Pulm.				Non-Pulm.				Pulm.				Non-Pulm.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	1	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34	4	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—44	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65—74	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75—84	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	20	14	—	1	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	34		1						4							

Causes of Death

<i>Disease</i>						<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	10	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	5
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	17	16
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	15	29
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	41	29
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	9	8
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	21	33
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	10	9
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	10	12
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	8	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	5	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	10	14
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	4	6
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Homicide and operation of war	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
						185	176

INFANT DEATHS

Under 1 day M. F.	1-6 days M. F.		1 week M. F.		2 weeks M. F.		3 weeks M. F.		Total under 1 month M. F.		1-2 months M. F.		3-5 months M. F.		6-8 months M. F.		9-11 months M. F.		Totals M. F.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Prematurity	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Atelectasis	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Congenital Abnormality	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Broncho- pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	1
Acute Cerebral Oedema	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Accidental Death	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
TOTALS	3	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	4	3	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	8	4

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

No action was necessary under Regulation 20 to prohibit the sale of milk suspected of causing disease.

Food Poisoning

Two cases were notified. In no case was it possible to ascertain with accuracy the source of the infection although enquiries were made at the home and there was full bacteriological investigation. There were no deaths attributable to food poisoning.

Water

Arrangements for the supply of water are unchanged; practically the whole of the area is supplied by the South West Suburban Water Co. which draws water from the River Thames at their waterworks at Egham. The Company has modern treatment plant and the supply continues to be satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

A few houses in the Laleham Ward adjacent to Chertsey Bridge are supplied by the West Surrey Water Company and a part of Colnbrook by the Borough of Slough Water Undertaking. The water from these supplies is also quite satisfactory in quality and in quantity.

The arrangements for the chemical analysis and bacteriological examination of raw water and treated water continue to be on the lines mentioned in previous reports and this Department continues to take check samples of main water. All of these have been satisfactory. The water has no plumbo solvent action and there were no reports during the year of contamination. The following report is on a sample of water taken from the South West Suburban Water Co.'s mains submitted for examination during 1957.

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance: Bright with a few particles.

Colour	...	...	...	4	Turbidity	Less than 3
pH	...	...	...	7.5	Odour	Nil
Electric Conductivity	...	...	...	500	Free Carbon Dioxide	... 15
Chlorine present as						
	Chloride			30	Total solids	... 335
Hardness:				Total 245	Alkalinity as Calcium	
					Carbonate	190
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	3.8	Carbonate	... 190
					Non-Carbonate	... 55
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	0.000	Nitrite Nitrogen	... 0.01
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	0.041	Oxygen Absorbed	... 0.50
Metals	...	...	...	absent	Residual Chlorine	... 0.03

Bacteriological Results

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37° C.	2 days at 37° C.	3 days at 20° C.
	3 per ml.	3 per ml.	4 per ml.
	<i>Present in</i>	<i>Absent from</i>	<i>Probable number</i>
Presumptive Coli- aerogenes Reaction	... —ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type 1)	... —ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	... —ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These are very satisfactory results indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Bridge Street,
Staines.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year under review was notable for the passing of the Rent Act 1957, a measure which will, it is hoped, prevent the further decay of the older rented houses and ensure that such houses are kept in reasonable condition.

One result of this Act is that it will now be practicable to use the repair sections of the Housing Act to secure the repair of dwelling houses. Prior to the increase of rents it was difficult to use the repair sections of the Housing Act because of the necessity to have regard to the repairs being carried out at reasonable expense in relation to the value of the house. Increasing the rent income increases the value of the house and despite the present high cost of repair work should enable the Council to serve notices requiring full repairs and not merely the limited works that can be required under Public Health Act notices.

A considerable amount of time was taken up in giving information to tenants on the repairs procedure under the Rent Act in addition to giving information on other aspects of the Act.

It will be observed from the section dealing with meat inspection that this work continues to occupy much of your Inspectors' time and regularly entails evening and Sunday inspections. In my view the business of slaughtering could be so arranged that much of the killing at night and on Sundays could be avoided to the benefit of all concerned.

The action taken by the Council to make Demolition Orders on the huts and caravans occupied permanently by agricultural workers on two farms in the Stanwell area was very necessary. These sites had been used by a succession of semi-gypsy workers for many years and it was felt the time had come to attempt to improve their conditions and I was very pleased when the Council resolved to rehouse all the families as the opportunity arose.

The total number of inspections is less than the previous year, this is in part due to absence through illness of two members of the Staff.

This report once again gives me the opportunity of recording my appreciation of the support given to me by the members of the Council, to thank all the Officers for their ready co-operation and advice and finally to thank the Staff of the Department for their loyal support during the year.

JOHN MULLIN.

Summary of Inspections

Inspections under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	1479
Improvement Grants	...	...	114
Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	233
Overcrowding	...	...	44
Food Premises	...	...	1124
Slaughterhouses	...	...	803
Pet Animals Act	...	...	12
Cesspools	...	...	136
Drainage Works	...	...	476
Drain Testing	...	...	74
Heating Appliances (Fireguard) Regns., 1953	...	...	11
Factories and Outworkers	...	...	220
Factories (Fire Escape)	...	...	53
Smoke Abatement	...	...	36
Rodent Control	...	...	1510
Vermin	...	...	102
Keeping of Animals and Poultry	...	...	49
Water Supplies	...	...	23
Infectious Diseases	...	...	41
Offensive Trades	...	...	121
Caravans	...	...	203
Places of Public Entertainment	...	...	26
Shops Act	...	...	87
Hawkers	...	...	51
Public Conveniences	...	...	33
Schools	...	...	15
River Pollution	...	...	63
Refuse Deposits	...	...	141
Hairdressers	...	...	44
Miscellaneous	...	...	245
			7569

Number of Notices Served :

	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Formal</i>
Housing Act, 1936, Section 9	1	1
Public Health Act, 1936	111	29
Food & Drugs Act, 1955	57	—
Factories Act, 1937	10	—
Pests Act, 1949	1	—
Shops Act, 1950	4	—
	184	30

During the year 428 complaints were received.

Drainage

The relaying of Staines Ward sewers was almost completed during 1957 and the scheme for sewerage the Poyle, Stanwell Moor and Colnbrook areas will commence early in 1958. These schemes were very necessary and the Council is to be congratulated on pursuing them.

The Council's decision to give six free emptyings of cesspools per year has reduced the nuisance of overflowing cesspools and the extension of the sewers mentioned above will result in many more cesspools being abolished.

Thirteen cesspools were abolished and the houses connected to the sewer.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

					<i>No. of Premises</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	6	22
Bakers and Confectioners' Shops	...	...	...	...	18	41
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	35	140
Bacon Curer	...	...	...	...	1	12
Brewery	...	...	...	...	1	2
Cannery and Winery	...	...	...	...	1	17
Clubs	...	...	...	...	12	13
Dairies	...	...	...	...	6	26
Fish Shops (wet and fried fish)	...	...	...	...	14	47
Grocers	...	...	...	...	90	224
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	39	58
Hospital Kitchens	...	...	...	...	2	2
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	36	57
Off-Licences	...	...	...	...	9	6
Mineral Water Manufacturer	...	...	...	...	1	2
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	38	147
School kitchens	...	...	...	...	15	26
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	4	803
Sweets and Tobacco	...	...	...	...	45	50
Wholesale warehouses	...	...	...	...	7	20
Works canteens	...	...	...	...	12	16
Food Storage (Hawkers)	...	...	...	...	17	41

Food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

(a) Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	140	104
(b) Sausage manufacturers	...	...	8	28
(c) Fish Friers	...	...	7	23

Milk

The number of Dairies and Milk Distributors registered is:—

Milk Distributors	...	...	30
Dairies	...	...	6

The following licences have been issued :

<i>Designation</i>					<i>Dealers Licences</i>	<i>Supple- mentary Licences</i>
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	8	13
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	9	14
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	14	10

An Order is in force specifying the area as one in which only designated milks can be sold.

Food Hygiene

Attention continued to be directed to all types of food premises and in my view there is still room for improvement by many traders in methods of handling, storage and preparation of food. Unhygienic practices are still observed and the standard of cleanliness "behind the scenes" has not yet reached the desirable level. The new self-service food stores recently opened show what can be achieved in hygienic food display and while these modern methods may add to the cost of the article, they are clearly popular with the housewife and from the public health aspect represent what should be done.

Complaints of foreign bodies in food, e.g. a cigarette end in a custard tart, mouldy sausage rolls sold to a customer and dirty milk bottles are all examples of carelessness on the part of food traders and their employees.

That the public complains of such things indicates a strong objection to these unhygienic conditions being allowed to continue.

Proceedings under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. were taken against a firm of multiple grocers after attention had been drawn to contraventions of the Regulations at a branch shop.

A fine of £10 10s. 0d. was imposed on each of six summonses and costs of £6 6s. 0d. were awarded to the Council.

Improvements Effected at Food Premises

						<i>No. of Premises</i>
Cleanliness improved	...	...	...	...	...	17
Structural repairs	...	...	...	...	...	10
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	2
Equipment improved, protective screens	...	...	...	...	...	36
Hot water supplies provided or improved	...	...	...	...	...	9
Sanitary accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sinks and wash basins provided	...	...	...	...	...	6

The following foods were surrendered in food premises as being unfit for human consumption.

1494 canned goods	33 lbs. English lamb
186 lbs. beef	482 lbs. pork
18 lbs. chilled beef	4 lbs. luncheon meat
235 lbs. corned beef	42 lbs. jellied veal
68 lbs. cooked ham	18 lbs. pork luncheon meat
137 lbs. gammon bacon	12 hamburgers
2 bushels winkles	887 packets of sundry frozen foods
61 lbs. lamb plucks	950 lbs. peach pulp
2 chickens	336 lbs. fresh fish
18 chicken cutlets	



Refrigerated meat display.



Self-service store showing hygienic food display.

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations

Practically all the ice-cream sold in the district continues to be manufactured by three firms whose product is sold nationally. There are now no ice-cream manufacturers in the area.

Nine samples were submitted to the Methylene Blue test. Seven were placed in Grade 1 and two in Grade 2.

Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses

The following table shows the number of animals killed, the carcasses inspected and details of carcasses condemned. The total number of animals killed was 16,385, an increase of over 3,000 on 1956.

Full details of the meat condemned have been reported to the Public Health Committee each month and records are available should they be required for statistical or other purposes.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part

		<i>Cattle Excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed (if known)	...	969	39	2705	4356	8326
Number inspected	... ..	969	39	2705	4346	8326
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	...	—	—	5	—	23
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	... ..	154	13	3	27	517
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	...	15.9	33.3	0.3	0.6	6.5
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	... ..	27	10	—	—	37
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	...	2.8	25.6	—	—	0.44
<i>Cysticercosis :</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	... ..	4	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	... ..	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned		—	—	—	—	—

Condemned meat and food is dealt with at a factory in the area where it is processed for industrial use.

The Public Health Inspectors continue to act as Certifying Officers under the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Scheme for payments to pig producers.

Certificates were issued in respect of 5,999 pigs, the fees received by the Council for this work amounted to £158 18s. 0d.

Adulteration of Foods, etc.

I am indebted to the Chief Officer, Public Control Department of the Middlesex County Council for the following report on work carried out by his Department.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. I attach a list of samples of food and drugs procured under the above Act in the Urban District of Staines during the year 1957. With regard to the samples noted on that list as being unsatisfactory, I add the following comments:—

Milk. The 13 unsatisfactory samples of new milk were obtained from consignments sent by three different dairy farmers to a milk depot in your District.

Ten of these, all from one farmer, were found to be deficient in milk-fat and solids-not-fat. The attention of this farmer was called to these deficiencies by letter and the information was also passed to the Milk Marketing Board in order that the farmer might have the benefit of the Board's Advisory Service. The remaining three unsatisfactory samples of new milk were from two other farmers. In the case of one, the milk in two churns was found to be deficient in milk-fat and in solids-not-fat, whilst that in the remaining churns was satisfactory. In the case of the other, the milk in one churn was found to be deficient in fat whilst that in all the other churns was satisfactory.

Cream. A sample of mincemeat tart and cream purchased at a restaurant as part of a meal was found to be mincemeat tart and imitation cream. An official caution was addressed to the proprietors of the restaurant.

Liver. Two test purchases of liver were made at a butcher's shop. In one case lambs' liver was requested and in the other calves' liver; in each case pigs' liver was supplied. Proceedings were instituted against the trader concerned, who was fined £3 and ordered to pay £1 1s. costs in respect of each offence.

Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887-1953. 103 inspections of shops were undertaken to ensure that the Marking Orders relating to certain imported foodstuffs made under the Merchandise Marks Act, 1926, were complied with. 481 separate displays of meat, apples, tomatoes and poultry were examined, and in addition a number of test purchases were made. No infringements of a serious nature were detected; a few minor infringements were dealt with by way of verbal cautions.

Labelling of Food Order, 1953. At 61 premises 194 articles of pre-packed food were examined to see that they bore a label which gave a clear statement of the designation of the food and, in the case of compound foods, the ingredients, and also the name and

address of the packer or labeller. No infringement of this Order was detected.

False or Misleading Descriptions. As in previous years a considerable amount of work has been done in the detailed scrutiny of advertisements and the labels on pre-packed foods, and taking suitable action in those cases where a label or advertisement contains a false or misleading description of the food to which it relates. This work is of benefit to the whole County irrespective of where within the County offences may be detected. During the year under review corrective action has been secured in respect of salmon with potato salad, crystallised jelly, pineapple slices, pure egg mundelech, cherry juice, lime juice, imitation cream, cream-filled biscuits, cream-filled Easter eggs and cheese. In every case the person responsible agreed to make necessary suitable amendments to labels as a result of my representations. In no case was it necessary to institute proceedings.

Special Designated Milk. During the year in question one licence was issued by my Council in respect of the use of the special designation “pasteurised” for milk processed within your area. These premises were regularly inspected, and compliance with the requirements of the Act and of the appropriate Regulations was maintained. Fourteen samples of pasteurised milk were taken, all of which were certified as being satisfactory.

Safe Milk. In addition to the foregoing, 25 samples of raw milk were procured within the area of your District Council and submitted to test for the presence of tubercle bacilli. None was found contaminated.

<i>Article</i>	<i>Total Samples</i>	
	<i>Procured</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Milk, new	58	13
Milk, various	45	—
Butter	4	—
Cakes	4	—
Cream	6	1
Drugs	2	—
Fish and Fish Products	14	—
Fruit, fresh, canned	17	—
Fruit Juice, etc.	3	—
Liver	8	2
Margarine	2	—
Meat and Meat Products	7	—
Peas	3	—
Preserves	4	—
Vinegar	14	—
Miscellaneous	15	—
	206	16

Housing Statistics

Number of new houses erected during 1957:—

Local Authority	.....	...	...	...	...	161
Housing Association	...	...	...	...	...	6
Other Persons	...	...	...	...	...	331

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

Number of dwelling-houses inspected under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	1479
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Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	179
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Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	...	...	...	...	...	97
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Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

Proceedings under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	1
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Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

By owners	...	...	...	...	...	1
-----------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

By local authority in default of owners	...	...	—
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Proceedings under Public Health Act:—

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	141
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Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

By owners	...	...	...	...	...	41
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By local authority in default of owners	...	...	2
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Proceedings under Section 11, Housing Act 1936:—

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	27
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Proceedings under Section 25, Housing Act 1936:—

Number of Clearance Areas declared	...	...	3
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Number of unfit dwellings included in Clearance Areas	...	...	...	...	...	11
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Proceedings under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:—

Closing Orders made under Section 10	...	...	—
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Number of dwellings closed	...	...	—
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Rent Act, 1957—Certificates of Disrepair

This Act came into force in July 1957, and its impact soon showed itself in the large number of tenants seeking information. The provisions relating to increase of rent and to what has been described as the alphabetical jungle of forms prescribed by the

Act were quite beyond the understanding of most tenants and completely incomprehensible to old people. The Public Health Department became responsible for giving information and at first the majority of enquirers asked for the rent increases to be checked; these were followed by enquiries relating to the use of the notice requiring repairs to be served on the landlord. Both owners and tenants sought information and this work imposed a heavy burden on the Department for several months.

Some 743 enquiries were known to have been dealt with by the end of 1957; the actual number is greater than this since many enquiries were not recorded.

The Act completely changes the provisions for dealing with repairs and rent increases under the Housing Repairs and Rent Act of 1954 which proved ineffective. By the end of the year it was not possible to judge whether this new Act would prove more effective in securing the repair and maintenance of dwelling houses, but it was known that the owners of some houses where there was considerable disrepair had not increased the rents because of the likelihood of a demand for repair by the tenant ensuing. Certainly the procedure for dealing with Certificates of Disrepair is quite complicated and occasions much clerical work. In my view, experience of the working of the Act shows much of this to be unnecessary and the procedure would be simplified if a tenant could apply direct to the Council for a Certificate of Disrepair without going through the procedure of serving the prescribed notices on the landlord to be followed by the Landlord's service of notice of undertaking on the tenant. The onus of serving notices puts a burden on tenants which the majority are unable to meet without seeking advice. I find the small landlord who does not employ professional assistance is similarly bewildered. The following table gives details of applications for Certificates of Disrepair:—

Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	...	93
Applications refused	... ..	—
Landlords notified of proposal to issue Certificate of Disrepair (Form J)	... ..	89
Undertakings given by landlords to remedy defects (Form K)	... ..	36
Certificates of Disrepair issued	... ..	43
Certificates of Disrepair cancelled	... ..	5
Applications for cancellation of Certificate of Disrepair refused	... ..	2

Improvement Grants under the Housing Acts

The provisions for the improvement of older houses by the making of a grant up to one-half the approved cost of the works are still not being used extensively by property owners.

The majority of the applications were from owner-occupiers anxious to provide a bathroom and hot water supplies to their houses.

Six applications were approved for bathroom additions at a total cost of £1,545 3s. 4d., and a grant of one-half the cost made in each case.

One application from an owner-occupier to convert a large house into two flats was approved at a cost of £1,192 3s. 4d., with a grant of £590.

Caravans

In previous years I have reported on the tendency for an increasing use of caravans for permanent occupation and I feel this area is fortunate in not having had to meet a problem so extensive as adjoining Authorities. There are several reasons for this, not least being that the Council continued to adhere to the policy of preventing any further increase in the number of residential caravans using the provisions of the Middlesex County Council Acts and planning control.

Consideration was given to applications where there appeared to be particular hardship or a special reason and temporary consent for a period of one year was given in three cases each for one caravan. Six caravans were removed after consent had been refused. Three applications for caravans to be occupied permanently by agricultural workers were refused. The applications were from a market gardener, a dairyman and an arable farmer respectively. All three appealed against the refusal of consent; the Magistrates' Court allowed the appeals and gave temporary permission for the caravans to be occupied for one year with a view to enabling permanent arrangements to house the employees to be made.

Factories Act 1937

	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Number of Written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
Factories with mechanical power	268	206	10	—
Factories without mechanical power	12	4	—	—
Other premises under the Acts (including work of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises)	3	12	—	—
TOTAL	<u>283</u>	<u>222</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>—</u>

Defects Found

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of Defects Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Sanitary accommodation (Section 7):		
Insufficient	3	2
Unsuitable or defective	14	9
Not separate for sexes	2	—
Other offences	1	—
TOTAL	<u>20</u>	<u>11</u>

Factories Act 1937, Section 34 Means of Escape in case of fire

It is the Council's duty to issue Certificates as to adequate means of escape in case of fire at certain factories.

Eleven Certificates were issued.

Shops Act 1950

It is the responsibility of the Council to administer all parts of the Shops Act and inspections are carried out by the Public Health Inspectors.

Practically all shops continue to close much earlier than the hours fixed by the Act, but it is noted there is an increasing tendency on the part of small general shops and mobile traders to contravene the Sunday Trading provisions by selling articles not permitted to be sold on Sundays. Observations were made on six Sunday mornings and five traders were cautioned.

Pest Destruction

As in previous years the majority of rat infestations arise from domestic pig and poultry keeping and better husbandry on the part of the persons responsible would reduce the number of rodent infestations.

Treatment of rat and mouse infestations at dwelling-houses continues to be free of charge while a charge is made at business premises to cover the cost of labour and materials.

Use is made principally of Warfarin which has proved very effective in destroying rats and mice and is harmless to animals.

Test baiting of the sewers has not been carried out because of the extensive resewering in progress. Tests carried out in previous years showed that rat infestation was negligible; a further test baiting of the whole system will be carried out when the re-laying of the Staines sewer system is completed.

Your Inspectors continued to give advice on various types of insect infestation. A number of new houses became infested with the clover mite (*Bryobia praetiosa*). This minute insect proved very difficult to eradicate and although harmless is a nuisance when present in large numbers.

Rodent Control

Number of complaints received	...	...	...	347
Number of properties inspected	...	...	...	634
Number of dwelling-houses treated for :—				
(a) Rats	...	...	...	476
(b) Mice	...	...	...	91
Number of business premises treated	...	...	...	67
Number of inspections made	...	...	...	1510
Total of inspections and revisits	...	...	...	4503

